THE SIXTH DAY.

27th February, 1926.

The Assembly met again at 11-30 A. M. on Saturday, the 27th February, 1926.

91. Vernacular School Teachers.

MR. KURIAKOSE CHACKO (*Member, Minachil taluk, Group I*) urged that the Government should raise the pay of teachers in Departmental Vernacular Schools and increase the grant-in-aid to teachers in private Vernacular Schools. A scale of pay should be fixed for teachers in Sirkar schools.

The cost of living has risen so high that the teachers experienced great hardships. This even adversely affected the teaching in schools.

The classification of Headmasters of Middle Schools into two grades, one on Rs. 40 and the other on Rs. 35, made in the reorganisation G. O. No. Fl. 896, dated the 29th April 1922, was unjustifiable. The disparity between the pay of teachers in classes V, VI and VII and of the headmaster was also striking. It should not be fixed according to the class taught; but a time scale should be allowed as in the secondary schools.

The pay allowed to an English School Leaving Certificate holder in the Vernacular Schools varied from Rs. 15 to Rs. 22 according to the class which he was appointed to teach, while one with similar qualifications in the English Schools got Rs. 25 to Rs. 40. This distinction was invidious and should be done away with. The gradations of pay among the primary school teachers also worked unfairly. The allowance of Rs. 2 per mensem granted to teachers working the shift system was inadequate. Headmasters of Vernacular Middle Schools should be given a scale of pay rising up to Rs. 60, teachers of class VII should be given at least Rs. 40, of class VI Rs. 35 and of class V Rs. 30. Headmasters of primary schools should be given not less than Rs. 25; and no teacher should get less than Rs. 20.

Private schools were relieving the Government of a considerable share of responsibility in the matter of education. No building or furniture grants were given to Vernacular Schools. The present rates of grant were grossly inadequate. In Cochin, fourteen annas to each rupee of the teacher's pay was given as grant. Private schools would die off if the grant was not raised.

Government were getting increased revenues from several sources, and were spending money on higher officers. Retrenchment in that direction should be effected and grants to teachers of classes I to IV should be raised to at least 80 per cent. of the pay of the teachers of the corresponding classes in departmental schools. As fee was levied in classes V to VII, the grant in respect of the teachers of the classes may be fixed at 40 per cent. of the pay of the teachers in departmental schools.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kuriakose Chacko, in the matter of what you say for improving the pay of Vernacular School teachers, I can do no more than refer you to the reply I gave yesterday.

2. As regards increased grants to teachers in private schools, you should remember that Rs. 7½, the amount paid by the Government, is a grant-in-aid and if the Vernacular School Managers pay their due share, *e. g.*, the same amount, then it comes to Rs. 15, *i. e.*, a rupee more than the present pay of the Government school teachers. It is up to the Managers to pay their teachers in full.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

3. On the subject of equalisation of pay of undergraduate teachers in English and Vernacular schools, Government are unable to admit that there is complete equality. To begin with, teachers who are recruited for English schools are candidates of better attainments ; and in regard to duties and responsibilities too, they stand on a different footing from those recruited to the Vernacular schools. The undergraduate teachers in Vernacular schools, as a rule, only teach English and are not placed in responsible charge of a class, while undergraduate teachers in English schools teach not only English, but all the class subjects except perhaps Vernacular. Besides, they are placed in charge of classes. So, their responsibility and work are decidedly heavier. That being the case, there is no justification for equalisation of salary.

92. Further educational concessions to members of the depressed classes.

MR. AIYAN KALI (*Member, Nominated*) thanked the Government for the numerous concessions that had already been granted to members of the depressed classes such as Pulayas, Parayas, etc. Children belonging to these communities who were attending schools should be provided with noon meal at the cost of the Government. Such a concession would be required only for a period of about fifteen years. Children belonging to the depressed classes continued in their backward state of education as they had to compete with people better circumstanced who could afford to maintain their children in school with adequate sustenance.

Young men belonging to the Pulaya and similar other communities who did not possess examination qualifications should be recruited as peons. Orders should be issued for the appointment as teachers of the few qualified Vernacular School Leaving Certificate holders who were still without employment. At least one peon from these communities should be appointed in all departments, particularly in Taluk Cutcherries. Subordinate appointments, especially in the Forest Department, should be more freely conferred upon them.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Aiyan Kali, your request that something in the nature of a free meal—something very modest—should be allowed to Pulaya children who will otherwise be hungry throughout the day is a proposal which it may not be quite easy to arrange in practice. But I shall have the question taken up and examined.

2. As regards the other matter, that is, of employing Pulaya youths as peons both in Taluk Cutcherries and in the Forest Department, I may say that, a little time back, I gave orders that a Pulaya should be appointed as peon in one of the offices connected with the Huzur. In order to ensure that no special disabilities are imposed upon them because they are Pulayas, I shall see that a circular is sent to all the heads of departments to treat them equally with all other communities.

93. Needs of the people of Nanjinad.

MR. CHEMPAKAKKANNU PILLAI NAGARU PILLAI (*Member, Tovala taluk*) said that the Tamilians in certain taluks in Travancore were placed at a considerable disadvantage in that Tamil was not employed in preparing official documents, etc., even though the Government had permitted it in Tamil taluks. Orders should be issued for the maintenance of all official records in Tamil in such taluks. Only officers who had a knowledge of Tamil should be posted to Tamil taluks.

Under the existing rules, the ryots could not gain easy access to the neighbouring reserved forests for the purpose of collecting green-leaf manure, timber for making agricultural implements, etc., as the areas set apart for the purpose were either far away from agricultural holdings or did not contain the necessary materials. If it could be ordered that the ryots might have access to any portion of the reserves for the above-mentioned purposes provided they did not cut down Royal trees, etc., it would be of immense benefit to the ryots and no loss to the State.

The deterioration of the soil in Nanjinad for want of sufficient manure had begun to tell upon the productivity of the land. This was partly due to the restriction placed on the free ingress into Travancore territory of sheep and cattle from British India. It was therefore necessary to allow foreign sheep and cattle to be taken into Travancore territory free of any license fee at least for four months from Masi every year.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly